Amendments to the Claims

1. (original) A method for controlling exposure time in a digital image capture device comprising the steps of:

when a user-controlled exposure mode is selected and a start exposure signal is asserted,

a) capturing a first image and assigning the first image to a running total image;

b) displaying the running total image;

c) capturing a next image;

d) adding the next image to the running total image;

e) displaying the running total image; and

f) repeating steps (c) to (e) until a terminate exposure signal is asserted.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the digital image capture device includes ~~include~~ an image sensor; wherein the step of capturing the first image includes the steps of

a_1) exposing the image sensor to light;

a_2) reading out an analog value from the image sensor; and

a_3) converting the analog value to a corresponding digital value; and

wherein the step of capturing the next image includes the steps of

c_1) exposing the image sensor to light;

c_2) reading out an analog value from the image sensor; and

c_3) converting the analog value to a corresponding digital value.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the digital image capture device includes a display; and wherein the step of displaying the running total image includes displaying the running total image on the display.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

transferring a final image to a storage media.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the storage media is one of a removable storage media, volatile memory, and non-volatile memory.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 and further wherein: ~~further comprising the step of:~~

~~wherein~~ the asserted terminate exposure signal is a de-asserted start exposure signal; and

~~wherein~~ the start exposure signal is asserted and de-asserted by employing a cable release.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of asserting the start exposure signal includes the step of asserting the start exposure signal by employing a remote control; and wherein the step of asserting the terminate exposure signal includes the step of asserting the terminate exposure signal by employing a remote control.

8. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein the remote control utilizes one of an infrared link, a radio frequency link, and an audio link.

9. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein the digital image capture device is a digital camera.

10. (currently amended) A digital image capture device that has a user-controlled exposure mode comprising:

a) a display for displaying images; and

b) a user-controlled exposure mechanism coupled to the display for:

i) capturing a first image when a start exposure signal is asserted and assigning the first image to a running total image;

ii) displaying the running total image on said display;

iii) capturing a next image;

iv) adding the next image to the running total image;

v) displaying the running total image on said display; and

vi) repeating steps (iii) to (v) until a terminate exposure signal is asserted

~~for receiving a start exposure signal and a terminate exposure signal, responsive to the start exposure signal for beginning an exposure, for providing visual feedback during the exposure through the display and, and responsive to a terminate exposure signal for terminating the exposure~~.

11. (currently amended) The digital image capture device of claim 10 further comprising:

an enable signal for enabling the user-controlled exposure mechanism and setting the digital image capture device ~~camera~~ into a user-controlled exposure mode.

12. (previously presented) The digital image capture device of claim 11 further comprising:

a first button for use by a user to assert the start exposure signal and to assert the terminate exposure signal; and

a second button for use by a user to assert the enable signal.

13. (original) The digital image capture device of claim 12 further comprising a separate button for use by a user to assert the terminate exposure signal.

14. (original) The digital image capture device of claim 10 wherein the user-controlled exposure mechanism includes:

a visual feedback module for providing visual feedback during the exposure through the display.

15. (original) The digital image capture device of claim 10 wherein the digital image capture device is a digital camera.

16. (currently amended) A digital image capture device that has a user-controlled exposure mode comprising:

a) means for displaying images; and

b) user-controlled exposure means coupled to the display for:

i) capturing a first image when a start exposure signal is asserted and assigning the first image to a running total image;

ii) displaying the running total image on said means for displaying;

iii) capturing a next image;

iv) adding the next image to the running total image;

v) displaying the running total image on said means for displaying; and

vi) repeating steps (iii) to (v) until a terminate exposure signal is asserted

~~for receiving a start exposure signal and a terminate exposure signal, responsive to the start exposure signal for beginning an exposure, for providing immediate visual feedback during the exposure through the display, and responsive to a terminate exposure signal for terminating the exposure~~.

17. (currently amended) The digital image capture device of claim 16 further comprising:

an enable signal for enabling the user-controlled exposure mechanism and setting the digital image capture device ~~camera~~ into a user-controlled exposure mode.

18. (currently amended) The digital image capture device of claim 16 further comprising:

c) first means for use by a user to assert said ~~assert a~~ start exposure signal;

d) second means for use by a user to assert said ~~assert a~~ terminate exposure signal; and

e) third means for use by a user to set the digital image capture device into a ~~into the~~ user-controlled exposure mode.

19. (previously presented) The digital image capture device of claim 18 wherein the first means and the second means are a single button.

20. (currently amended) The digital image capture device of claim 16 wherein the user-controlled exposure means includes:

a visual feedback means for providing visual feedback during the exposure through the means for displaying ~~display~~.